Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Artist-Blacksmiths' Association

Pennsylvania Artist-Blacksmith's Association

Dedicated to the preservation, sharing and expansion of the Artist-Blacksmith's skills

March 2024

Next Meeting Date: Saturday, April 27

Iron Pour & Forge Fest

Join, GoggleWorks, Albright College, and Pennsylvania Artists Blacksmith Association on Saturday, April 27th, 2024 for Iron Pour and Forge Fest! https://goggleworks.org/event/spring-iron-pour-forge-fest/

Forge Fest: 12-6:30pm -- Iron Pour: Approx. 6:30-9pm -- Free Admission | Free Parking PABA will start setting up everything before noon. Everything should be ready to go by 11am.

☐ Live Music ☐ Demos ☐ Workshops ☐ Firepits ☐ S'mores Stations ☐ Food ☐ Bar ☐ & More

PABA starts off the days events with the Forge Fest. We'll have several forges going so members are able to step in and make items. There will be no Iron in the Hat and no designated area for tailgating. Based on the site layout and the amount of general public that comes, its difficult to maintain. Our *Iron Master of the Day Item is a* **Table Top Sculpture**, so PABA can show off our member's skill to the attendees.

Finally, cap off an amazing evening right, with an exciting display as 2,000 pounds of iron is heated to 3,000 degrees and the molten metal is tapped for pouring. During the last board meeting the idea of pouring a small swage block was brought up. Paul Huf made inital contact with Brian Glaze from Albright College about this idea and Steve Faust followed up by providing a small swage block of his as a mold. With a little luck, we'll be able to see a small (5lb?) ductile iron swage poured.

This year's event features even more activities beyond metalworking, including hands-on activities for kids and adults, live music, food trucks from Munchiez and Bapanada, craft beers by Saucony Creek, and desserts from Sugar & Sweets by Ami. The first fifty curious participants will have the opportunity to purchase and prepare their own mold to be later cast in molten iron.

Directions: coming in from business 422 go across the bridge then turn left onto 3rd Street. Turn left again onto Washington Street then turn right onto 2nd street. Immediately turn right into the parking lot.



PABA Contacts

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Keith Eckman 1370 New Danville Pk Lancaster, PA 17603 717-291-0214 keckman1370@comcast.net - The Pennsylvania Striker is published bimonthly by the Pennsylvania Artist Blacksmith Association, Inc. (PABA), an affiliate of the Artist Blacksmith Association of North America (ABANA). Unless otherwise noted all text content is by the editor and all artwork is by Mark Smith.

Membership is open to anyone interested in blacksmithing. Dues are \$25 per calendar year. Contact a board member for an application.

- PABA makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information contained herein but assumes no liability in case of error or changing conditions. Any business relations or other activities undertaken as a result of information contained herein or arising therefore are the responsibility of the parties involved and not the Pennsylvania Artist- Blacksmith's Association, Inc.

Presidents Message

After 24 years in Stroudsburg, I moved back to my hometown of Clearfield PA. What an ordeal moving many tons of equipment, tools, tables, and just plain old metal turned out to be! My previous move was when the shop was growing. I had 5 guys working for me and the move was one block away. This time I had zero guys working for me and 180 miles to move. A few

lessons came along with this move, and I would like to take this time to share them. Scrap and Drop pieces of metal are your friend and your biggest enemy. In the course of my move, I ended up taking over 10,000lbs of metal to the scrap yard! It took up a lot of time and energy that should have been focused on moving tools and equipment. So big enemy there. On the other hand, it put about \$1800 in cash back in my pocket at a time I really needed it. So big friend there. Lesson here is just to be aware and if I must move again, scrap that stuff ahead of time and put it in a moving fund.

Corners. Corners are bad. When you occupy a shop long term, you get very good at packing things away. You know, the things that are super useful once every ten years. And once they get really packed away you lose track of them. And then you forget you have them. And sometimes, you get another one! And the corners are the worst. They get piled up, stay dark and mysterious, and hoard many things. I thought I was close to done moving and then I started with the corners. This happens when you are tired, ready to be done, and willing to dumpster things just to be done. All of the sudden you are faced with these valuable and somewhat odd items and bad things can happen. Dumpster things! The lesson is, don't leave the corners for last. Hit em early and hit em hard.

Go slow and be careful. I managed to have only one loss in the entire move. It was "the Swede". A Swedish made drill press that has been a workhorse in my shop for many years. It made it to the new shop unscathed, as did everything else. The last ten feet via hand truck and I got too confident. Turned a bit too fast and the table section spun in the post, threw the whole thing off balance, and took me with it. I rolled and managed to not get crushed, but the complicated power switch was obliterated. That is not replaceable so it will be an interesting repair. Now I moved power hammers, top heavy mills, pallets of tooling, and tons (literally) of steel with not even a close call. I went slow and steady and mostly by myself. Helpers are the worst for making you rush things. If they can't slow down, refuse their help. It's always when you rush that you make mistakes.

At the end of the day, I am very happy I moved. Many unused items were purged, and being forced to lay out my space again has resulted in much more efficiency. We love our shops indeed, but rethinking them, even if you don't have to move, is a great way to achieve an even better shop.

PABA CALENDAR 2024

June 15- Old Dry Road Farm, Wernersville, PA
Iron Master of the Day Item: Tomahawk/Hatchet
This will be a normal meeting. There may be time
to organize some of PABA's items for Blacksmith
Day and if we're allowed... A hatchet throw?

August 3 - Blacksmith Day, Wernersville, PA
Old Dry Road Farm,

Iron Master of the Day Item: A Lock (choice of what kind)

October- Andrew's New Shop, Clearfield, PA

Iron Master of the Day Item:

Campfire Cooking Item

December 14 - PABA Gallery - Paradise, PA
Iron Master of the Day Item:
Holiday Item

A-Day 2024 - April 26-28 Delaware Valley University 700 E. Butler Ave. Doylestown, Pa. 18901

Friday, 12-8pm - Saturday, 10am - 7pm - Sunday, 10am - 6pm Activities and things to see for the entire family. Food Trucks, Vendors, Tractor Parade, Milkshakes from PA Dairymen's Association Milkshakes Doug Learn will be blacksmithing https://delval.edu/community-members/a-day

Blacksmith Gathering 5 "Forges n' Fires" May 16-19

Reynlow Park - Reynoldsville PA

Ready yer hammers the 5th annual 2024 Blacksmith Gathering forging festival will soon be here. This year we forge hotter n' hit harder..

We will have many brand new faces and seasoned grizzled veterans in the forge this year, blacksmiths, bladesmiths, smelters, vendors, tool dealers oh my, what a time it will be. All good folks are welcome.

Visit Blacksmith Gathering USA Facebook group for more information.. www.facebook.com/groups/327758755187201

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 34th annual Blacksmith Days Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland. May 18 & 19, 2024

> 500 South Center Street Westminster, MD, 21157

This years demonstrators are Mark Sperry of Colonial Williamsburg and Matt Stagmer host and executive producer of the That Works Youtube channel. Activities include contests, tailgating, Iron-in-the-hat drawings, Forging Contests, Live Auction and more! This is a save the date notification. Come back often and check in as we update the event notification

www.bgcmonline.org/events/blacksmith-days-2024

Appalachian Area Chapter of Blacksmiths 2024 Conference May 16-18, 2024 Cannonsburgh Village 312 South Front Street, Murfreesboro, TN

Demonstrator Roy Adams: Baroque Style Elements Roy Adams resides in Harrisville, Michigan with his wife and three children. Roy's interest in blacksmithing began in childhood when he watched a blacksmith at his work at Carriage Hill Metropark. He began forging in 2008 after receiving an antique coal forge as a gift from his wife. Roy studied under prestigious blacksmiths such as Thomas Latane, Peter Ross, Clay Spencer, Douglas Pryor, and Wayne Apgar. https://aacblacksmiths.org

ABANA 50th Anniversary Celebration & Conference

Save the date for June 6-9, 2024!
The next ABANA conference will be in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.
https://abana.org/50thanniversary/

Tentative Schedule of Events:

Wednesday, June 5th: Opening Ceremony at 4

pm; Competition Teams will have access to select and cut their needed materials. **Thursday**, June 6th: Demos, craft classes, forging competition sessions, vending, tailgating.

Friday, June 7th: Demos, craft classes, forging competition sessions, vending, tailgating, and evening lecture. **Saturday,** June 8th: Demos, craft classes, forging competition sessions, vending, tailgating, and evening auction. **Sunday,** June 9th: Tour the Center for Metal Arts at 9 am.

https://abana.org/conference-registration/#!event-register/2024/6/6/guest-registration

The Newcomer's in February

The February weather at Stan's shop again turned out perfect. PABA had Derick Kemper (forged in fire

champion, (s5 e32) www.damselflyforge.com) as our featured demonstrator. He made several styles of hatchet/tomahawks for us and took a few requests for other items as well. His background included,

architectural iron, tools and blades, as well as horse shoeing.

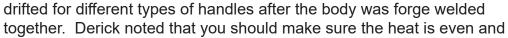


Photos by Allen Schaeffer





Unfortunately I didn't get as many notes as I wanted. One of the items was a wrap around style tomahawk made from a used rasp. Another style of hatchet he made used a wrought iron body (approx. 3/8 x 1 x 7) with a high carbon insert for the cutting edge. Each was



the metal is clean then use over lapping blows moving from the center toward the edge. He also mentioned that if you use wrought iron, it tends to move more easily then carbon steel



so it will stretch faster than the insert if you don't pay attention.







Photo by Paul Huf



Pennsylvania Striker March 2024



Later in the day Derick attempted to make an ax with a Damascus steel cutting edge but the forge wasn't co-operating. Instead he passed around a version that he had made at his home shop. He also brought a number of examples of African forged iron and an impressive pole ax he created.









PABA had a nice turn out for the Iron Master of the Day, Valentine's theme. We ended up with



two loveable winners, Rick Varner and Paul Janusz.

A HUGE thanks to Stan and Carolyn for hosting and providing the wonderful chicken corn soup and hot dogs! We can't forget thank Schelly for being our grill master and a thank you to all those that brought food to share.

PABA Updates & Information

WIN an ANVIL!

Will Smith spoke with to Greg Hagen, owner of Holland Anvil, and he has donated a brand new 50 lb. double horn anvil as a prize. If you are a new member of PABA for 2024 you will automatically have your name entered. Tickets will be on sale at the meetings similar to our Iron in the Hat tickets. We'll collect them all and draw the winner at the December meeting.

Pass the word around and help grown and support our group!

www.hollandanvil.com

PABA GRANT

PABA will be offering an educational grant at the gallery meeting this year. If you are a member you may apply. The grant will go toward paying for a class of the member's choice. Forms will be available at the meetings.

Member Updates

Bill Pursel - Jeff McComsey visited Bill recently and he's doing well. If you want to send a card or possibly call or stop by... He is at Silver Springs Personal Care Home, 125 State Road, Mechanicsburg, Pa. 17011. Room 39

Steve Gensheimer - I spoke with Steve a few weeks ago. He's still working on recovering from his stroke but I'm trying to persuade him to come to the April meeting to visit with the group.

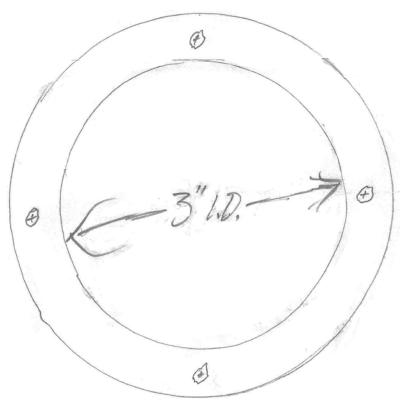
Dave Baver's wife unexpectedly passed away in February.

https://memorials.kuhnfuneralhomes.com/helen-baver/5375865/

Celtic Cross - Steve Staurowsky

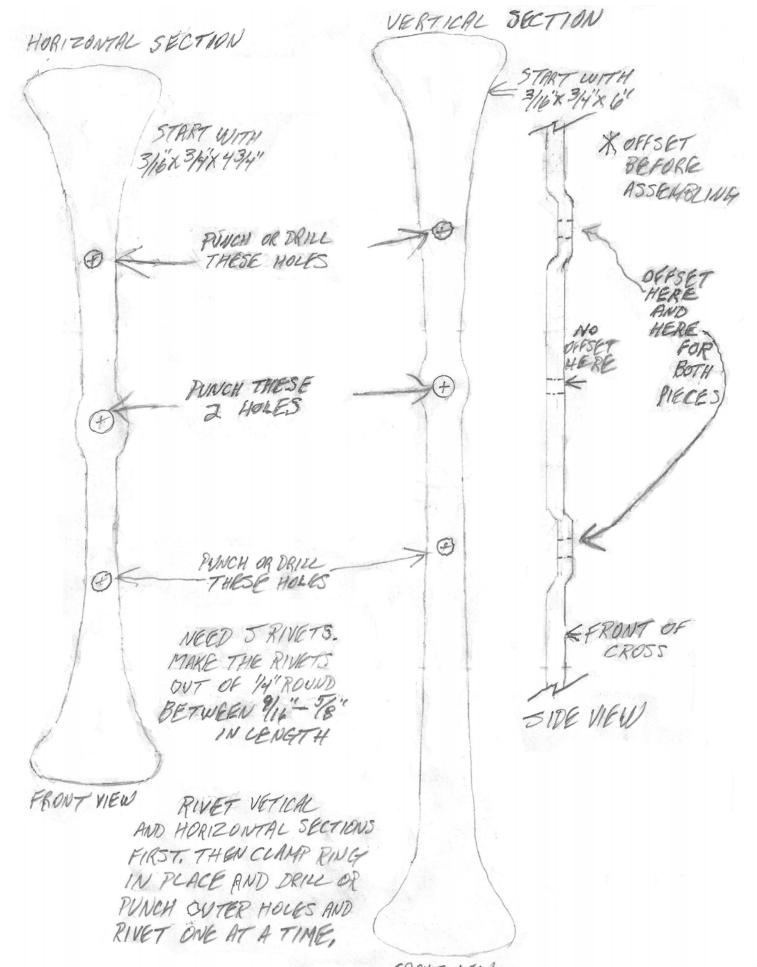
Ring Section - 1/8" x 1/2" x 11"

Chamfer the rivet holes on the backside for flush rivets.





Pennsylvania Striker March 2024



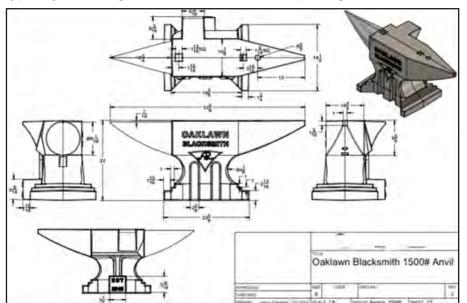
1600 Pound Anvil from Oak Lawn Blacksmith - Andrew Reist

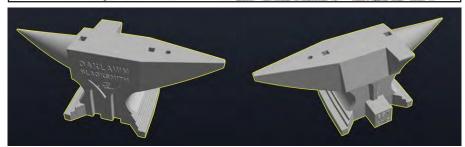
On June 26th, 2023, at 10:00 am, the first 1600 pound anvil was poured from H-13 tool steel. I feel honored to be able to make and design quality tools for people around the world. Oak Lawn tools have been sent to over twenty countries and 48 states over the past 10 years. Each tool steel anvil has a unique serial number on the bottom of the anvils, so I can identify the specific area/region to where it



was shipped. Every tool produced by Oak Lawn Blacksmith is made either in Pennsylvania or Ohio.

There are many different stages and numerous hours that go into creating an anvil out of tool steel. It typically takes eight to twelve months from placing the order to delivery. The first stage of production





includes creating a computer 3-D model using Autodesk. Once the design is finished, a 3D plastic model is made and sent to a small foundry in Lancaster to cast in bronze. Once the design is approved, the file gets sent to a pattern shop, where they can use either a large 3-D printer, or make the pattern out of wood.

After the pattern is made, it gets sent to the foundry where anvils are cast using a sand mold. The mold for the 1600 lb. anvil was approximately four foot wide by eight foot long by five foot high. The actual dimensions are as follows: 54 inches long, 22 inches tall, 10 3/8" wide face (16" with side shelf). The hardy hole is 2" and the pritchel hole is 1 inch in diameter.

The foundry that I use is a large scale company that does industrial castings for the tool and die industry as well as the automotive industry.

I was fortunate to be able to go out to Ohio to see it poured and visit their facilities. It is amazing how much knowledge and science there is behind casting tool steel. I was surprised that they had a scientist on hand that took samples of each pour. When the first 1,600 pound anvil was poured, it weighted around 2,200 pounds including the gating. They poured the gating on side of the anvil where the OLBS is located. The gating that was attached to side of the anvil was about the diameter of a five gallon bucket.

Two weeks after the anvil was cast, the sand mould was opened and the gating was cut off. From the foundry, it is sent to another nearby company in Ohio that specializes in heat treating. The heat treater mentioned that these anvils were close to the maximum size that could fit in their oven. They use a conventional endothermic hardening system to harden the anvils to 54-56 Rockwell. After hardening, the anvils are delivered back to Pennsylvania to a machinist for grinding. The anvil is first Blanchard ground on



the top and bottom of the anvil, and then surface ground on the top face. After machining, the anvil was shipped to its new home and now resides in lowa. The second anvil weights 1,611 pounds and was cast on September 21, 2023 and is now in Ephrata, Pennsylvania.



Oak Lawn Blacksmith Shop Tool List



45 Pound Double Horn Anvil (H-13) 54-65 Rockwell \$425





25 Pound Single Horn Anvil (H-13) 54-65 Rockwell \$285





500 Pound Double Horn Anvil (H-13) 54-65 Rockwell -\$4200 (Made to Order)



6 inch (11 Pound) Swage Block, Ductile iron. \$95



5 inch (6 Pound) Swage Block, Ductile iron. \$65



16 inch
Ductile Iron
Cone Mandrel
\$125



Member Offered Blacksmithing Classes

Dave Fisher • Blacksmith Classes • Fisher Forge • 572 Saint Michaels Rd. Hamburg, PA 19526 610-504-8060 • fforge@early.com - *Fall classes w/Dave Fisher through the Hamburg Area Arts Alliance* 610-562-3106 hamburgarts@verizon.net - \$190 (4 classes)

Derick Kemper • Damselfly Forge • Phone - 410-937-4244 • Email - Damselflyforge@gmail.com https://www.damselflyforge.com/blacksmith-classes

Drunken Smithy • Blacksmithing Classes • 61 W Front Street, Suite C • Palmyra, PA 17078 (717) 833-4105 • forge@drunkensmithy.com

Allen Schaeffer • Beginner Blacksmithing Classes • Learn the basics one on one • Email gift certificates available • FurnaceCreekForge@comcast.net • 484.651.9402 • www.FurnaceCreekForge.com

Martha Moore Westbrook • Jewelry & Metalsmithing Classes • caersidi@earthlink.net • 610-730-6216 Goggleworks Center for the Arts, Reading PA: www.goggleworks.org The Baum School of Art, Allentown, PA: www.baumschool.org

Regional Blacksmithing Classes

Adirondack Folk School - www.adirondackfolkschool.org • P.O. Box 2 • Lake Luzerne • NY 12846 • 518-696-2400

Appalachian Center for Craft - 1560 Craft Center Drive • Smithville, TN 37166 • 931-372-3051 or 615-597-6801 www.tntech.edu/craftcenter/workshops/

Augusta Heritage Center - augustaartsandculture.org • 100 Campus Drive • Elkins, WV 26241 • 304-637-1287

Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland - *Carroll County Farm Museum* • Westminster, MD • 410-386-3881 or Karen - ksjones@carrollcountymd.gov • https://www.bgcmonline.org/classes

Bryn Athyn College - www.brynathyn.edu/department/building-arts • 2945 College Drive • Bryn Athyn, PA 19009 267-502-6000 • jkline@brynathyn.edu

Cedar Lakes - http://www.cedarlakes.com/craft-workshops/ • HC 88, Box 21 • Ripley, WV 25271 • 304-372-7873

Center for Metal Arts - www.centerformetalarts.com • 106 Iron St • Johnstown, PA 15906 • 814.418.0409

Clifton Forge School of the Arts - www.cfsota.org • 518 Church Street • Clifton Forge, VA 24422 • 540-862-7275

Floyd Center for the Arts - www.floydartcenter.org • 220 Parkway Lane, South • Floyd, VA. 24091 • 540-745-2784

John C. Campbell Folk School - www.folkschool.org • 1 Folk School Rd • Brasstown, North Carolina 28902 1.800.FOLK.SCH (365.5724)

Ms Caitlin's School - 26 West All Saints St. - Frederick, MD 21701 - www.mscaitlinsschool.com 301-246-2248 - to schedule an appointment - Info@mscaitlinsschool.com

National Ornamental Metal Museum - www.metalmuseum.org • 374 Metal Museum Drive • Memphis, TN 38106 901-774-6380 or 1-877-881-2326 • info@metalmuseum.org

New England School of Metalwork - www.newenglandschoolofmetalwork.com • 7 Albiston Way • Auburn, Maine 04210 207-777-6211 Toll Free 888-753-7502 • dglaser@newenglandschoolofmetalwork.com

Peters Valley Craft Center - www.petersvalley.org • 19 Kuhn Road • Layton, NJ 07851 • 973-948-5200

Randy McDaniel, Classes, author of "A Blacksmithing Primer" • 1044 Spielman Road, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411 rams4g@msn.com - www.blacksmithschoolwv.com

Rochester ARC + Flame Center - www.rocafc.com • 125 Fed Ex Way • Rochester, NY 14624 • 585-349-7110

Touchstone Center for Crafts - 1049 Wharton Furnace Rd • Farmington, PA 15437 • 724-329-1370 or 800-721-0177 www.touchstonecrafts.org/workshops • info@touchstonecrafts.org *50th Year Special Events!*

Virginia Institute of Blacksmithing - 200 West Twelfth St. • Waynesboro, VA 22980 • 434-960-9718 • www.vablacksmithing.org

CLASSIFIEDS

HOLLAND ANVIL - www.hollandanvil.com - Anvils, Swage Blocks, and Blacksmith Supplies

-- All Holland Anvil products are cast at our foundry in Holland, Michigan. We outsource our grinding and heat treat to local businesses, but everything else is handled in house. We have years of industrial experience with H13 and ductile iron and we are proud to bring our knowledge to you through our castings.

Looking to buy or sell? Please send the Editor your listing.

Eggerling Damascus - Specializing in Mosaic Blade & Bolster Material Robert Eggerling 610-682-6836 - www.eggerlingdamascus.com

SUPPLIERS

Reese's Coal- Blacksmithing Coal - 53 Church Road - Quarryville, PA 17566 - 717-786-3375 (please call for hours)

Elligson Trucking - Freeland, MD 21053 - Blacksmithing coal - 410-357-5720 - https://elligsontrucking.com/index.html

Martin's Ag Service - Blacksmith Coal - 717.354.4996 - 338 Grist Mill Rd, New Holland, Pa -

Coopersburg Bagging - 551 Springfield Street, Coopersburg, PA - 610.282.2376. Normally sells coal by the ton, but sometimes has less than ton lots in 50# bags.

Fisher Coal Co. - English Center, PA - 570-337-5764 - Blacksmith coal sales

Mellinger Elvin E.& Sons - Blacksmith Coal - 117 Long Lane, Lancaster, PA 17603 - 717-464-3822

Reifsnyders Ag Center - 7180 Bernville Rd Bernville, PA - 610-488-0667 - Blacksmithing coal

Weaverland Valley Coal - 170 Ranks Church Rd, New Holland, PA 17557 - 717-4454488

Blacksmithing Books - Blue Moon Press - Blue Moon Rd, Huntingdon, PA 16652 - 866-627-6922 - www.bluemoonpress.org

Metalworking Books - The Astragal Press - 5 Cold Hill Road - Mendham, NJ 07945 - 973-543-3045 - www.AstragalPress.com

Kayne & Son Custom Hardware, Inc. - Blacksmiths Depot - 100 Daniel Ridge Rd. Candler NC 28715 - (828) 667-8868 - www.blacksmithsdepot.com

GTS Gas - Gas & Welding Supplies - gtsgas.com- locations all over PA and the country - 1-800-942-1148

KEEN Compressed Gas Co. - Welding supplies & equipment. - Wilmington, DE - 800-533-6427 - www.keengas.com

SAHD Metal Recycling & Sales - www.recycleyourmetal.com

1045 Lancaster Avenue, Columbia, PA 17512 - 717-684-8506 - dan@recycleyourmetal.com

Steel and Metal Liquidators LLC, - www.shopmetal.com - 407 Old Airport Rd. - New Castle, DE 19720 - 302-322-9960 & 1584 Bunting Street - Pottsville, PA 17901- 570-391-0141

Rivets - Various sizes and metals, also screws and other fasteners. R. J. Leahy Company, 1475 Yosemite Avenue, San Fransico, CA 94124 - www.rjleahy.com • Phone 1-800-514-4106

Larry Zoeller - Forge building info and Supplies. Phone: 502 439-0812 - Zoeller Forge, 7509 Geswein Rd., Lanesville, IN 47136 zman59@earthlink.net - http://zoellerforge.com

Custom Forge Aprons - FORGE-APRONS.com - (575) 313-4650 - 1373 S. Powell Dr., Kanab, UT 84741

Page Belting Company - 104 High Street - Boscawen, NH 03303 - www.pagebelting.com - leather belting and gaskets

Brown Engineering Co. - 2135 North 13th Street, Reading, PA 19604 - brownengco.com - 610-929-0909 - Distributer of mechanical parts, lubricants and supplies.

Cattail Foundry - 167 W. Cattail Road Gordonville, PA 17529 - Amish owned metal foundry. Produces castings from nearly any pattern or part you supply.



Thanks to the following for their contribution or assistance to the Striker.

Steve Staurowsky
Andrew Molinaro
Paul Huf
Allen Schaeffer
Lenka Votrubova
Steve Faust
Will Smith
Jeff McComsey
Andrew Reist
I apologize if anyone was missed,

www.paba-site.org

it was not my intention.



PABA-PA-Artist-Blacksmiths-Association

PABA Member	ship Application <i>a</i>	2024 (Jan. 1 - Dec. 31) \$25
Name		
Address		
City	State Zip	
Telephone #	E-mail	
helpful to the group or med	lar skills (welder, accountant, cambership?	<u> </u>
PayPal option - Paba Make Checks payable t	paypal@gmail.com (Use frien o PABA. Send completed appl - 1023 Old Penfield Rd, Cle	ds & family option) lication and \$25 (one year)
	PABA USE	
Cash Check #	PayPal	
New Member \$25	New Member after June June-Dec. price \$10	Renewal \$25